

CLAIMS

1. A container (1) equipped with a closure device (10) that allows an object (100) to be placed in said container (1), particularly for the purposes of manipulating it, or allows it to be withdrawn from said container, the closure device (10) having a plane and comprising closure means (40) that can deform elastically to change from a closed state of rest under no external stress to an open active state under an external stress, wherein said closure means (40) can deform elastically essentially in the plane of the closure device (10).
2. The container (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure device (10) comprises at least one rigid peripheral support structure (30; 50) to which are attached the elastically deformable means (40) which intersect each other and surround a closure member (60) in such a way as to tend to close it.
3. The container as claimed in claim 2, wherein the peripheral structure is a rigid frame (30; 50) on which the elastically deformable means (40) are stretched between two roughly opposite points.
4. The container as claimed in claim 3, wherein the:
- peripheral structure comprises at least one ring (30; 50) having an inside diameter D and a center C,
  - elastically deformable means are elastic bands (40) attached in groups of two juxtaposed elastic bands and fixed to the ring (30) at their diametrically opposed ends (40a).
5. The container as claimed in claim 4, wherein the closure member is a sleeve (60) made of flexible material having a diameter D and a length of at least twice this diameter, each end (62, 64) of which sleeve (60) passes through each pair of elastic bands (40) in

the center C of the ring (30) where it is contracted radially in the closed rest state of the device (10), or defines a single through opening (45) for the object in the open state of the device, in which state the elastic bands (40) are deformed radially by the passage of said object.

6. The container as claimed in claim 5, wherein one end (62) of the sleeve (60) is fixed peripherally to an outer face (52) of a second ring and the other end (64) of said sleeve (60) is fixed peripherally to an opposite outer face (32) of a first ring (30) identical to the other ring, the sleeve (60) being contracted radially in a middle zone (M) between each pair of elastic bands (40), the latter being attached to one or the other of the rings (30, 50) which are themselves fixed to each other via their inner faces (34, 54).

7. The container as claimed in claim 6, wherein the two rings (30, 50) are offset angularly with respect to each other while twisting the sleeve (60) axially, this angular offset being preferably approximately 90°.

8. The container as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein the rings (30, 50) are held together by adhesive bonding or by stitching.

9. The container as claimed in any one of claims 5-8, wherein the sleeve (60) is made of fabric.

10. The container as claimed in any one of claims 5-9, characterized in that the elastic bands (40) are eight in number and juxtaposed and attached in pairs distributed in such a way as to pass through the center of their supporting ring (30) so as to form in the latter eight essentially identical sectors.

11. The container as claimed in any one of claims 5-10, wherein the elastic bands (40) are slightly under

tension on their supporting ring (30) in the closed state of the device.

12. The container as claimed in any one of the  
5 preceding claims, wherein its shape is that of a  
straight or curved cylinder and that it possesses a  
closure device (10) at each end.

13. The container as claimed in any one of the  
10 preceding claims, wherein it includes at least a part  
(7) made of a transparent material.

14. The container as claimed in any one of the  
preceding claims, wherein it can be used under  
15 weightless conditions.